

McCoy Farm & Gardens NEWSLETTER

Main entrance: 1604 Taft Highway • Front gate: 1715 Anderson Pike • Mailing address: P.O. Box 443, Signal Mountain, TN 37377 • Website: www.mccoypark.org

Volume One: Issue Four

October 2016

Enjoy Jacob Little's Fire Pit at McCoy Farm & Gardens



*Eagle Scout Jacob Lincoln Little stands proudly beside the fire pit he and his Boy Scout team built for the community to enjoy.
by Jacob Little*

The [Eagle Scout] project took the better part of four days and consisted of digging and shaping the dirt into a circle, along with filling the pit with gravel and stacking the stone, which was donated from a rock quarry and gathered by myself and other Scouts. I have

been a Scout since the 5th grade and I am currently 16. Since I joined Scouts, I always looked up to the Eagle Scouts, and I wanted to join them. I also wanted to achieve the highest rank in Scouts to have it carry with me throughout my life. *See more photographs next page.*

Thanks, Town of Walden

It was in the fall of 2014 that newly elected Walden mayor, Bill Trohanis, set a goal. His vision was to release the real potential of the McCoy property. There were obstacles in the way. Some citizens felt enough money had been spent and that maintaining the house and grounds was not yielding sufficient benefits for the cost.

Alarmed at the possibility of losing our greatest asset, a small group of citizens met and asked the mayor to hear their ideas of a volunteer team to help him achieve his dream. Fortunately, he was receptive, and the tiny volunteer group grew and blossomed.

It is hard to remember where we began when the property was purchased in 2005, because look where we are now! Thank you Mayor and Aldermen. The excitement about McCoy Farm & Gardens today is a credit to your committed involvement and support.

The Mission of the McCoy Farm & Gardens is to restore, enhance and preserve the historic McCoy homeplace so that it may serve the community as an arboretum, natural area, and venue for public and private events.

Tasty Wine and Cheese

A wine tasting at McCoy Farm & Gardens directed by wine expert, Bill Hull, and sponsored by Pruett's Market on September 23rd, was a magical evening. Chamber music was provided by Ponticello Trio, pictured at right on the front porch decorated handsomely for the event. Allen Liu, junior at McCallie; Brandon McGrath, senior at Hixson and Juliette Blas, dual enrolled at SMHS and Chattanooga State, made up the trio. The wine selections were complemented by delicious hors d'oeuvres, among which were Dancing Fern and Cumberland cheeses furnished by Padgett Arnold of Sequatchie Cove Creamery.



Ponticello Trio playing at the Wine Tasting, September 23

Bird & Nature Walks

A bird walk led by Kevin Calhoun of the TN Aquarium on September 25 identified 35 species by sight and/or sound. These included year-round residents like brown thrashers and bluebirds and migratory birds like wood thrushes and magnolia warblers. McCoy Farm & Gardens is excellent habitat for the many birds that prefer brushy areas and borders between grass and woods. In keeping with our mission, more nature & wildlife programs are planned. Contact Doug Newton, 412-915-5996.

Grounds Progress Report

It's been a productive season for the grounds: 1. dead trees removed from beside the bridge and parking lot, 2. alkaline gravel removed from stream bed, 3. special event parking areas cleared, 4. apple trees pruned and mulched, 5. barn rehabilitation begun, 6. glade rejuvenation underway.

Three chestnut trees have been discovered! It is possible they are American Chestnuts which have survived the blight. Watch for more news on their further identification.

Volunteer now to help with fall bulb and other planting. Call Jody Hunter 645-6268.



Members of Boy Scout Troop 116 shown selecting and transporting stone, are Turner Eades, Mason Hilke, Reilly Jordan, Hugh Jackson, Jake, and Caleb Little. Story on page 1.

Hours, Access & Information

The 1.1 mile long walking and running trail is open during daylight hours, seven days per week. Access the trail at the 1604 Taft Highway entrance, and park in the first gravel lot located outside the inner gate.

The McCoy grounds are open to the public Saturdays and Sundays, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm. Please enter through the Taft Highway entrance and park in the main gravel lot. A handicapped accessible portable toilet is located at the orchard end of the gravel lot.

OFFICERS:

Mickey Robbins, President
Bob Franklin, Vice President; Corporate Secretary
Gene Adams, Treasurer

DIRECTORS:

Charles Adams
Linda Collins
Joe Davis
Andy Jones
Anne Leonard
Jeremy Logan

COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Shannon Handy, Strategic Planning
Jody Hunter, Gardening
Susan Snow, Private Events
Karen Stone, Newsletter

WALDEN OFFICIALS:

Mayor: Bill Trohanis
Aldermen: Lee Davis, Thom Petersen

Support McCoy Farm & Gardens

The McCoy Farm and Gardens is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation. All contributions are charitable and tax deductible to the maximum extent allowed by law, as determined by your tax advisor.

The 32 acre parcel with the Bachman-McCoy home, a pavilion, a carriage house, a barn, unimproved blacksmith shop, an apple house, various other smaller structures, and gardens are leased from the Town of Walden. Volunteers are very important to the organization, in all areas. Your donations are welcome and will be used to improve the structures and gardens.

Please send your check to:

McCoy Farm & Gardens

P.O. Box 443, Signal Mt., TN 37377

www.mccoywalden.org